



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

### Contents

<a href="#">Immigration and Asylum</a>	<a href="#">Bills in Progress</a>
<a href="#">Community Relations</a>	<a href="#">Consultations</a>
<a href="#">Equality</a>	<a href="#">Job Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination</a>	<a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>
<a href="#">Other Scottish Parliament and Government</a>	<a href="#">Events, Conferences, and Training</a>
<a href="#">Cost of Living</a>	<a href="#">Useful Links</a>
<a href="#">Other News</a>	<a href="#">Back issues</a>

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites have been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Asylum Policy and Legislation (United Kingdom Government)

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15636&i=133426#ScotParIOR>

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Emma Roddick (SNP) [S6M-11803] The Impact of UK Government Asylum Policy and Legislation in Scotland** – That the Parliament recognises the impact of UK Government asylum policy and legislation in Scotland, including the effect of the complex asylum system on people who have applied for protection, restrictions on the right to work and

limited support available to people awaiting a decision, the increased reliance on contingency asylum accommodation caused by a backlog in Home Office decision-making, risks of maximisation policy and inadequate engagement with Scottish local authorities or public services prior to procurement of contingency accommodation, the streamlined asylum process and limited move-on period allowed once a decision has been made, and consequent impact on both newly-recognised refugees and local authorities, and the restricting of the right to seek asylum in the UK under the Illegal Migration Act 2023; is opposed to the UK Government's pursuit of plans to relocate people to third countries to have asylum claims considered there; recognises the ruling of the Supreme Court in relation to the safety of Rwanda, and acknowledges the comments of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) between the UK and Rwanda undermines the established international refugee protection system and that the UNHCR does not consider the MEDP to comply with the UK's obligations under international law; notes the engagement of Scottish local authorities in asylum dispersal, and agrees that the UK Government needs to engage positively with devolved governments, local authorities and public services across asylum matters to reduce negative impacts on people, communities and services.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-11803>

## UK Parliament Debates

### **Rwanda Plan Cost and Asylum System**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-09/debates/57105D77-72DE-4246-9F6E-ED87FCB9A088/RwandaPlanCostAndAsylumSystem>

### **Draft Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Amendment of List of Safe States) Regulations 2024**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/5bfc5fa4-6fb2-434b-952b-d002e546a5f5/DraftNationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002\(AmendmentOfListOfSafeStates\)Regulations2024](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/5bfc5fa4-6fb2-434b-952b-d002e546a5f5/DraftNationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002(AmendmentOfListOfSafeStates)Regulations2024)

### **Draft Immigration (Health Charge) (amendment) Order 2023**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/bd1ffab4-c6ef-48b1-bff1-b55295ab9f30/DraftImmigration\(HealthCharge\)\(Amendment\)Order2023\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/bd1ffab4-c6ef-48b1-bff1-b55295ab9f30/DraftImmigration(HealthCharge)(Amendment)Order2023(FirstSitting))

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### **Safe and Legal Routes to the UK**

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Cleverly)** [HCWS179] In accordance with my obligations under section 61 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023, I am today laying before Parliament a report on safe and legal routes to the United Kingdom. The report will also be available on gov.uk.

The UK has a proud history of providing protection for the most vulnerable. Since 2015, we have offered over half a million people safe and legal routes into the UK. This includes those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, as well as family members of refugees.

Through our global resettlement schemes, which includes the UK resettlement scheme, the community sponsorship scheme and the mandate resettlement scheme, we have welcomed over 28,700 refugees since 2015. Through this period, we are the sixth largest

recipient of United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) referred refugees, third only to Sweden and Germany in Europe.

This report reaffirms the Government's commitment to providing safe and legal routes for those most in need. Under the Illegal Migration Act, the only way to come to the UK to claim protection will be through safe and legal routes. This will take power out of the hands of criminal gangs and protect vulnerable people.

As part of this commitment, section 60 of the Illegal Migration Act commits the Government to introducing a cap, in consultation with local authorities, on the number of people brought to the UK through safe and legal routes each year.

This is so that we can get a realistic picture of the UK's capacity to welcome, integrate and accommodate resettled refugees. It is only by determining a realistic picture on capacity that the UK can continue to operate safe and legal routes and ensure these routes form part of a well managed and sustainable migration system. This is in recognition of the significant pressures facing local authorities and public services right now, including as a direct result of highly resource-consuming illegal migration. The cap is amendable should there be an international crisis that warrants a bespoke UK response.

The consultation to set the cap has now closed. The Government are currently reviewing responses from local authorities across the UK. A consultation summary report will be produced in the spring with draft regulations laid in Parliament before the summer recess. Parliament will then have an opportunity to debate and vote on the cap before it comes into force from 2025.

Through the establishment of the cap, and by bearing down on illegal migration, we will be able to do more for some of the most vulnerable refugees from across the globe, receiving more refugees from UNHCR direct from regions of conflict and instability. As we get control on numbers, we will keep under review whether we are able to do more to support vulnerable refugees and whether we need to consider new safe and legal routes.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-11/debates/24011184000011/SafeAndLegalRoutesToTheUK>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659ea7b7e8f5ec000d1f8b25/E03048385\\_UK s safe and legal humanitarian routes Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659ea7b7e8f5ec000d1f8b25/E03048385_UK_s_safe_and_legal_humanitarian_routes_Web_Accessible.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**John Healey (Labour) [6733]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applications have been re-approved following an initial rejection since April 2021.

**Reply from James Heappey:** In line with published policy, every applicant to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme is entitled to request one review of the eligibility decision on their application. Of more than 95,000 unique applications, approximately 11,380 have exercised that right.

The 11,380 figure includes reviews that could not be considered for a variety of reasons, including duplicate review requests, reviews being requested prior to an initial eligibility decision, reviews submitted outside of the permitted 90-day time window, or reviews requested where no ARAP application has been submitted.

In terms of the 5,349 reviews which could be considered, a total of 21 decisions have been overturned, with 3,707 decisions being upheld. There are currently 2,303 accepted reviews awaiting a decision.

More detail on our reviews policy is published on gov.uk and communicated to applicants in their eligibility decision letters.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-13/6733>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

*Information about the reviews policy referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance#the-review-process>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [7007]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to open the second stage of Pathway Three of the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The resettlement of eligible Afghans remains a top priority for this government. As of September 2023, around 24,600 vulnerable people affected by the events in Afghanistan have been brought to safety. This includes the first individuals to be relocated under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). In the second stage of Pathway 3, our commitment to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans still stands. We are not able to open for referrals at this present time for the second stage of Pathway 3 but further information will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-14/7007>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Helen Morgan (Liberal Democrat) [8267]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding will be allocated to local authorities to support them with the resettlement of Afghan families in their areas in 2024.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Local authorities already receive the integration tariff (£20,520 per person over three years) where they are supporting arrivals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy into settled accommodation, to support them to rebuild their lives in the UK and fully integrate into communities.

For arrivals up to the end of March 2024, the Government will be offering a package of financial support to local authorities for the resettlement of Afghan arrivals. This includes £28 per person per day for councils supporting households in transitional accommodation; a flexible housing fund to councils supporting a household into settled accommodation (£7,100 per person, capped at £35k per household). It also includes contingency new burdens funding to mitigate any additional pressures of homelessness presentations from transitional accommodation (this includes the £9,150 homelessness funding and up to six months wraparound funding for those in temporary accommodation).

This is an exceptional arrangement to acknowledge the urgent and unplanned use of transitional accommodation at this scale.

Amendments are being made to existing funding instructions to reflect this package of support, which will be published in due course.

The financial package for 2024/25 is still to be agreed and details will be published in due course with new funding instructions issued in the new financial year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8267>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>*

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

### Visas: Ukraine

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [7347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 27 March 2023 to Question168058 on Visas: Ukraine, whether he plans to make an announcement on the extension of visas under the (a) Homes for Ukraine scheme, (b) Ukrainian Family Scheme and (c) Ukraine Extension Scheme beyond the initial three-year period.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** We are mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead, for example if remaining in the UK, entering into rental agreements and living here independently. As a result, we actively keep the Ukraine schemes under consistent review.

The UK Government stands with Ukraine and firmly believes that Ukraine will be safe again. When it's safe to do so, Ukraine will need the repatriation of its citizens to help recover and rebuild their economy and infrastructure.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7347>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-17/168058>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Migrants

**Apsana Begum (Labour)** [7691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the no recourse to public funds status on (a) homelessness, (b) poverty, (c) access to healthcare and (d) violence against women and girls.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** The Government published an overarching Equality Impact Assessment on the Compliant Environment measures, of which the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) is part, earlier this year: [Compliant environment: overarching equality impact assessment](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/7691>

The following two questions both received the same answer

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [7440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what routes to review are available to individuals who wish to challenge a decision on their application to the EU settlement scheme on the grounds of error if the decision was made on or after 5 October 2023.

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [7441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of reintroducing the right to



an administrative review of decisions on applications to the EU settlement scheme.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), the option of administrative review no longer applies where a decision was made on an EUSS application on or after 5 October 2023.

The right of appeal under the Immigration (Citizens' Rights Appeals) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 will continue to meet our obligations under the Citizens' Rights Agreements to provide a means of redress for relevant decisions under the EUSS. The change aligns the EUSS with other UK immigration routes, none of which provide for both an administrative review and a right of appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7440>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7441>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The Regulations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/61/contents/made>

### Immigration: Overseas Students

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [7418] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, for what reason international students studying in the UK are included in overall immigration statistics.

**Reply from John Glen:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are responsible for publishing international migration estimates and follow the UN definition of a long-term migrant; a person who moves to another country for 12 months or more. Many international students move to the UK for more than 12 months so are included under this definition as they add to the overall population and will require services to support their stay.

On 23 November 2023, the ONS published the latest provisional estimates of *Long-term international migration*<sup>1</sup> which shows the estimated numbers of immigrants and their reasons for coming to the UK. The ONS estimated that in the year to the end of June 2023, 417,000 students (and their dependents) arrived in the UK out of 1.2 million overall. Net migration of students is estimated at 280,000 out of 672,000 overall.

Further research into possible methods for quantifying students in the ONS' net migration estimates using different measures has also been carried out, found in our *Reasons for international migration, international students update* release<sup>2</sup>. With the increases seen in the immigration of students in recent time periods, the ONS would expect emigration to continue to rise as those students come to the end of their studies. However, the research suggests that more recent cohorts of students are staying in the UK for longer so the ONS will continue to monitor this trend to see how it evolves over time.

As the ONS continues its programme of transforming population and migration statistics, we will explore how to provide additional detail to meet user needs. This will include the further development of estimates of student migration using administrative data.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingjune2023#uk-international-migration-data>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/reasonforinternationalmigrationinternationalstudentsupdate/november2023>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7418>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [7433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Oral Statement of 4 December 2023 on Legal Migration, Official Report, columns 41-43, what estimate he has made of the number of partners who will be unable to remain in the UK when the new minimum income threshold of £38,700 comes into effect.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Those who already have a family visa within the five-year partner route, or who apply before the minimum income threshold is raised, will continue to have their applications assessed against the current income requirement and will not be required to meet the increased threshold. This will also be the case for children seeking to join or accompany parents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7433>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

### **Visas: Families**

**Nia Griffith (Labour)** [7300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Oral Statement of 4 December 2023 on Legal Migration, Official Report, column 42, when he plans to publish details of transition arrangements for couples who have already set a date for their wedding.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Those who already have a family visa within the five-year partner route, or who apply before the minimum income threshold is raised, will continue to have their applications assessed against the current income requirement and will not be required to meet the increased threshold. This will also be the case for children seeking to join or accompany parents.

Anyone granted a fiancé visa before the minimum income threshold is raised will also be assessed against the current income requirement when they apply for a family visa within the five year partner route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7300>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Visas: Married People**

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [7698] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral contribution of 4 December 2023, Official Report, column 41, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a statutory right for British citizens to be joined by their non-UK spouse or partner on a family visa.

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [7699] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral contribution of 4 December 2023, Official Report, column 41, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing job offers made to a non-UK spouse or partner to be taken into account under the minimum income requirement for family visas.

### **Visas: Families**

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [7700] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral contribution of 4 December 2023, Official Report, column 41, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing third party support from the (a) parents and (b) siblings of the (i) applicant and (ii) their partner to contribute towards the minimum income requirement for family visas.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The announcements made on 4 December relate

solely to the level of the minimum income requirement (MIR). There are no current plans to make any changes to the rules regarding job offers or third-party support, although we keep all our rules under review. British citizens and those settled in the UK are free to enter into a genuine relationship with whomever they choose, but if they wish to establish their family life in the UK, it is appropriate they should do so on a basis which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. This is fair to migrants and to the wider community.

Support from a third party cannot generally be counted towards the MIR. The applicant and their partner must generally have the required resources under their own control, not somebody else's.

Under the Immigration Rules, consideration of other credible and reliable sources of income, financial support, or funds available to the couple, may be taken into account where an applicant is unable to meet the MIR and refusal of an application for a partner visa could otherwise breach Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This may include credible prospective earnings from employment based on a confirmed job offer in the UK. Full details of the circumstances of when such a confirmed job offer or third party support may be considered as counting toward the MIR can be found in the published guidance at Gov.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/7698>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/7699>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/7700>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6511a4dc2f404b0014c3d89e/1.7+-Financial+requirement.pdf>

### **Asylum: Hong Kong**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [7338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what review his Department is undertaking of asylum applications by people from Hong Kong who have been involved in pro-democracy campaigns; and what his planned timescale is for that review.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it with half a million individuals on humanitarian routes since 2015. All asylum claims admitted to the UK asylum system receive careful consideration. We will not remove anyone to their own, or any other country, where they would face persecution or serious harm.

Asylum decision makers carefully consider each claimant's protection needs by assessing all the evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information guidance. They receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance. This includes any claims received from people from Hong Kong.

Those from Hong Kong may also be eligible for the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route which was launched following China's imposition of the National Security Law in Hong Kong. To be eligible for the route, applicants must have BN(O) status, or be the eligible family member of someone with BN(O) status. The Home Office is currently not undertaking a specific review into asylum applications by people from Hong Kong who have been involved in pro-democracy campaigns.



<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7338>

Information about the British National (Overseas) visa, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [7930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have had their asylum claims (a) removed and (b) withdrawn from the legacy asylum backlog and then gone on to submit new asylum claims.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The number of people who have had their asylum claims removed and withdrawn from the legacy asylum backlog can be found in the quarterly immigration statistics at Asy\_10b: [asylum-summary-sep-2023-tables](#), however we are not able to provide the numbers of those who have gone on to have either a new fresh asylum claim accepted and/or have raised a further submission as this information is not published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/7930>

### **Asylum: Disability**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [7645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support disabled asylum seekers in asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Asylum seekers have access to health and social care services from the point of arrival in the UK. The Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, local authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure that people can access the healthcare and support they need. All accommodation providers have a contractual duty to assist people in accessing the health care they need. The Home Office also operates a Safeguarding Hub to support vulnerable individuals in accessing these services. In addition, the Home Office contracts Migrant Help to provide advice and guidance to asylum seekers should they have an issue with their accommodation or support, and for signposting to health and welfare services. Asylum seekers can access Migrant Help 24/7, every day of the year by a freephone telephone number, via an online chat or completing an email enquiry form both of which can be accessed free of charge on the Migrant Help website. Interpreting and translation services are available through Migrant Help when the need arises for asylum seekers to raise any queries or concerns.

Where an individual is on asylum support and has a care need, a referral will be made to the local authority for an assessment of care needs under the Care Act 2014. Our guidance sets out the approach to be taken by the Home Office to the duties and obligations owed to asylum seekers who have disabilities, care needs or both. In doing so it sets out how the framework of the Care Act 2014 should be interpreted by the Home Office and its external partners in the context of asylum support. The guidance can be found here: [Asylum-Seekers-With-Care-Needs-v2.0ext.pdf](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/7645>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Children**

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [8423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum have spent at least one night in hotel accommodation provided by the Home Office in the last 3 months.

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [8424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum were placed in hotel accommodation by the Home Office in the last three months, broken down by number of

nights spent in that accommodation.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The High Court has upheld that local authorities have a statutory duty to care for UASC. We have always maintained that the best place for unaccompanied children to be accommodated is within a local authority. The High Court recently noted that improvements, plus impressive collaboration between the Home Office and Kent County Council, has led to a significant fall in the number of lone children being accommodated in hotels.

Since 18 November 2023, the one remaining hotel in Kent has remained empty. Of the 7 hotels which were operational in 2022, 6 of those were closed permanently on 30 November 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8423>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8424>

*The High Court comments referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2023/3030.html>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Kim Johnson (Labour)** [8227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to section 3c of the Asylum accommodation support transformation: policy equality statement, updated by his Department on 8 September 2020, what steps his Department is taking to ensure Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (a) tackle prejudice and (b) foster good relations between LGBTQI+ people and others accommodated in hotels; what reports asylum accommodation providers have provided on the experiences of their LGBTQI+ service users; what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that asylum accommodation providers are (i) proactive in monitoring and identifying specific needs or risks and (ii) taking appropriate measures to respond; and what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that accommodation providers are not accommodating people identified as having specific needs or being at risk in the same sleeping quarters as other unrelated service users.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** We expect high standards from all of our providers, and we have a robust governance framework in place to manage service delivery of the Asylum Accommodation Support Contracts (AASC). Further details can be found at: [AASC - Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements.pdf](#).

Section G.2 of the AASC provides examples of factors which accommodation providers should consider as part of their case-by-case assessment of an individual's needs in room sharing, including whether they identify as LGBTQ+. This aligns with the allocation of accommodation policy which sets out that the circumstances of every person in asylum accommodation should be assessed individually. Where an individual need or safeguarding concern exists, accommodation may be provided to meet such need.

The AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting & Eligibility) service has also introduced more independent and transparent oversight of standards through clearer complaints mechanisms for asylum seekers and supporting data that allows more intelligent targeting of performance improvement.

Additionally, the Home Office has published the Asylum Support Contracts Safeguarding Framework at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-contracts-safeguarding-framework>

This framework sets out a joint, overarching approach, as well as the key controls and reporting mechanisms in place, across the AASC contracts, for safeguarding arrangements. All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services,

and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8227>

The policy equality statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-support-transformation-policy-equality-statement/asylum-accommodation-support-transformation-policy-equality-statement>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Immigration Detention: Brook House Inquiry

**Lord German (Liberal Democrat):** To ask His Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the findings of the Brook House Inquiry, published on 19 September 2023, in particular its recommendation for a 28-day time limit on immigration detention. ...

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom):** My Lords, the Government are carefully considering the findings of the Brook House inquiry, set out in its detailed report, in relation to the management of the immigration detention estate and the welfare of detained individuals. There are no plans to introduce a time limit on immigration detention.

**Lord German:** My Lords, the inquiry exposed the dehumanising abuse of vulnerable people held in immigration detention. Unfortunately, the report's author states that these issues remain in place today. We understand that a senior civil servant has been tasked to prepare the Government's response, to be published "in due course". I wonder whether "in due course" will have ended nine months from now. Perhaps the Minister could tell us. Secondly, the report's recommendation on a time limit was meant to be alongside the Home Office guidance on imminent times of removal. Will the Home Office seriously consider that recommendation, putting it alongside the current guidance, so that people are not detained for periods for which they are not intended?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, the Government's view is that a time limit on immigration detention would significantly impair our ability to remove those who have breached our immigration laws and refused to leave the UK voluntarily. It is likely to encourage and reward abuse, allowing those who wish to guarantee their release to frustrate the removal process until the time limit is reached. It would encourage late and opportunistic claims to be made simply to push a person over the time limit, regardless of the circumstances of their case. That would undermine our ability to maintain effective immigration control and would potentially place the public at higher risk, in particular through the release of foreign national offenders into the community.

**Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** My Lords, the Minister talks about abuse, but the abuse found in the Brook House inquiry report was by G4S staff, with terrible abuse perpetrated against some of the most vulnerable people. We believe in custody time limits in this society. Even suspected terrorists can be held for no more than 14 days. Why should these desperate people be held without limit of time?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, the noble Baroness will be aware that the supplier has changed; as of 2020, Serco now looks after this particular situation. I would also say that the vast majority of people are in fact detained for less than 28 days: 65% are detained for 28 days or less and 23% are detained for seven days or less.

**Baroness Meacher (Crossbench):** My Lords, Kate Eves's report included a number of recommendations requiring immediate and urgent implementation, because they related to serious issues such as the use of force and use of segregation. Can the Minister tell the House what the Government have now done in response to those particular recommendations? If nothing has been done, can the Minister explain why not?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, a lot of the work had already been done, because there was a report commissioned in 2016 by Stephen Shaw, who was then the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. The Government acted in response to that report, before the documentary that prompted the Brook House report. The Home Office has implemented steps across the removal estate to enhance assurance and oversight of service provision. We have strengthened our capacity to provide assurance and oversight of service provision both at the Gatwick IRC and in the wider removal estate. That includes action to refresh and reinforce whistleblowing arrangements, improve information flows and analysis of complaints, address incidents and use of force and enhance supplier and Home Office engagement with detained individuals.

**Lord Bellingham (Conservative):** My Lords, I have studied the first part of the report and looked at the rest of it, and one recurring theme in that report is the gross incompetence of G4S. A number of proposals have been put forward for improvement under the new manager, Serco. Can the Minister say something about those improvements that will be made and whether he has confidence in Serco? Another recurring theme in the report is the level of drug abuse, which really seems to be quite appalling in an organisation and institution such as this. Can the Minister also say something about what will be done to solve that particular problem?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, the new contract with Serco to run the Gatwick IRC commenced in May 2020 and runs for an eight-year period. The contract provides increased staffing levels, improved use of modern technology and enhanced investment in resident activity and welfare services. We have strengthened our capacity to provide assurance and oversight of service provision at Gatwick and the rest of the removal estate, including action, as I have just said, to refresh and reinforce whistleblowing arrangements, improve information flows and analysis of complaints and address incidents and use of force. As regards the drugs point, the Government will be responding to the report in due course.

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, in his original Answer, the Minister said that the Government are carefully considering the Brook House inquiry report and will respond in due course. Why has the Minister therefore told us that they have already come to the conclusion that they will ignore what the Brook House inquiry said, namely that there should be a 28-day limit on immigration detention? As my noble friend Lady Chakrabarti pointed out, that means that so-called immigration offenders are treated worse than terrorists.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** That is not what I said; I said that the Government are considering the report. The cross-government working group, chaired by the director of detention services at the Home Office, is considering the report and all the recommendations, including those with wider applicability across the detention estate. As regards the 28 days, I go back to what I said earlier: in particular, we think that this would impair our ability to remove those who have breached immigration laws and refused to leave the UK voluntarily. That would particularly place the community at risk, especially if foreign national offenders were released into the community. As I say, though, the vast majority are released within 28 days anyway.

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford:** My Lords, the inquiry found that the inappropriate use of restraint and force on detained persons suffering from mental illness was common at Brook House, with healthcare staff unaware of their responsibilities to monitor the welfare of detained persons during use of restraint. Regardless of this information, the Illegal Migration Act allows for the use of force against even children across the detention estate. What steps will be taken to ensure that the use of force is continually monitored and recorded for all detainees, but particularly vulnerable adults and children, to ensure that what occurred at Brook House is never allowed to happen again?



**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I agree with the right reverend Prelate that it should not be allowed to happen again. As I say, the Government are obviously considering all the recommendations, and that will clearly be part of the considerations. I am confident that there is no way that such a situation would be allowed to happen again.

**Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, recommendation 19 of the Brook House report is on the attitude and behaviour of healthcare staff. The use of force on one person who had a serious heart condition lasted for about 18 minutes, was positively harmful and put him at further risk. The recommendation is for immediate guidance for healthcare staff and mandatory training. Can the Minister tell us if that has already been brought into practice?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I agree with the noble Baroness that that was totally unacceptable, and the inquiry was obviously right to highlight it as something that needs urgent attention. As regards whether advice has been issued, I will have to come back to the noble Baroness, but I am pretty sure that those recommendations are being implemented.

**Lord Murray of Blidworth (Conservative):** My Lords, the noble Baroness, Lady Chakrabarti, alluded to the fact that, in the case of those on bail, their detention is regulated by custody time limits. Will my noble friend the Minister agree that, in the case of immigration detention, it should always be regulated by the Hardial Singh principles, enunciated by the noble and learned Lord, Lord Woolf, and as reflected by the recent and now in force provisions of the Illegal Migration Act?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I thank my noble friend for that; I agree with him. I would also point out that Stephen Shaw, as I mentioned earlier, wrote a report, which he updated in 2018, on welfare in immigration detention. He said the following: “The current Government position is to oppose a time limit (whether of 28 days or any other period), but Parliament may at some point take a different view ... at present, the case for a time limit has been articulated more as a slogan than as a fully developed policy proposal”.

I am afraid that I agree with that. ...

**Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (Crossbench):** ... how many asylum seekers are now held in detention, in limbo, with their cases unheard by us—or never to be heard by us? Is he at all ashamed that Médecins Sans Frontières is having to look after them?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I will stick to the question at hand, and will happily provide some statistics on the number of people in immigration detention as of 30 September last year. That number was 1,841, including those detained solely under immigration powers in prisons. That was 11% lower than at the end of September 2022, when there were 2,077 people in detention. I think that those numbers are encouraging and heading in the right direction.

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour):** My Lords, another of the inquiry’s findings was that vulnerable people in detention are not being afforded the appropriate protections that the safeguards recommended by Stephen Shaw are designed to provide, because of their dysfunctional operation. The latest report of the independent monitoring boards and new clinical evidence from Medical Justice—a core participant in the inquiry—show that the safeguards are still failing, including not identifying people at risk of self-harm or suicide, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences for mental and physical health. What steps are the Government therefore taking, as a matter of urgency, to ensure a more consistent and robust application of the safeguards, as called for in the inquiry report?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** As I have said, the detailed recommendations remain under review, but a lot of these issues were dealt with in response to Stephen Shaw’s report of 2016, which was then updated in 2018.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-11/debates/126E6881-203B-4CF2-9F31-1A05C786106D/ImmigrationDetentionBrookHouseInquiry>



The Brook House Inquiry Report, referred to above, can be read at <https://brookhouseinquiry.org.uk/main-page/launch/>

The Stephen Shaw Report, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a8024f940f0b62305b89713/52532\\_Shaw\\_Review\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a8024f940f0b62305b89713/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf)

The update to the Stephen Shaw Report, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b56e9d4e5274a3fcb8ecc17/Shaw\\_report\\_2018\\_Final\\_web\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b56e9d4e5274a3fcb8ecc17/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf)

Information about the Hardial Singh principles, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management/detention-and-case-progression-review-accessible#caselaw>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Asylum: Rwanda

**Lord Hacking (Labour)** [HL1100] To ask His Majesty's Government what monies they have thus far paid to the government of Rwanda; what further monies they are currently contracted to pay to that government; and what further costs they estimate will arise from the deportation of migrants under the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Rwanda received an initial £120 million as part of the Economic and Transformation Fund, which has been used to expand Rwanda's economic development and its capability of accommodating and welcoming new arrivals to benefit both migrants and host communities. In advance of flights, £20 million was paid to support initial set up costs for the relocation of individuals. Through the Economic Transformation and Integration Fund (ETIF) we have provided a further £100 million to Rwanda this financial year (23/24) and a further anticipated £50 million that may be payable in 2024. Information on funding will continue to be released as part of the Home Office Accounts publication each summer.

The Impact Assessment for the Illegal Migration Act can be found [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-12/hl1100>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL1169] To ask His Majesty's Government what evidence there is that the penalties imposed on illegal migrants deter future illegal crossings of the English Channel.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Through legislation, such as the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and the Illegal Migration Act 2023, we have introduced a range of measures which aim to deter those who seek to enter the UK illegally.

We set out the evidence covering this in the published [Impact Assessment for the Illegal Migration Act](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-13/hl1169>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL1315] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks made by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 18 December 2023 (HL Deb cols 2046-2049) how many members of the Hazara community targeted by the Taliban and IS-K in Afghanistan have been resettled to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy or the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Resettlement of eligible Afghans remains a top priority for this Government.

The latest published Immigration system statistics - [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics) show that at the end of September 2023, around 24,600 vulnerable people affected by the events in Afghanistan have been brought to safety so far.

Statistics on individuals resettled or relocated under the Afghan schemes is available in the immigration system statistics release. For detailed data, see table Asy\_D02 of the [asylum and resettlement datasets](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics).

The Home Office does not publish data on resettlement by ethnicity, as ethnicity is not routinely collected in a way that is reportable.

The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

We continue to work with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues, and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-19/hl1315>

*Lord Sharpe of Epsom's remarks referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-12-18/debates/43F36A7C-811F-4323-BD69-C01A74D451B4/PakistanAfghansEligibleForResettlementInUK>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Visas: Families

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL1252] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of children likely to be separated from a British parent as a result of the increase to the salary threshold to £38,700 for those applying for spousal or partner visas.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The family Immigration Rules contain an existing provision for exceptional circumstances where there would be unjustifiably harsh consequences for the applicant, their partner, a relevant child, or another family member, if their application were to be refused. This will continue to be the case when the minimum income requirement is increased in spring 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/hl1252>

### Asylum: Deportation and Temporary Accommodation

**Lord Hacking (Labour)** [HL1101] To ask His Majesty's Government how many migrants

are currently in accommodation provided by the Government in the UK, and how many are currently eligible for deportation under the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** As of 30 September 2023, published statistics show that 119,010 asylum seekers are being accommodated. The relevant provisions of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 have not yet been enacted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-12/hl1101>

## Press Release

**Give the Commons time to debate UK-Rwanda Treaty, says Home Affairs Committee**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/199351/give-the-commons-time-to-debate-ukrwanda-treaty-says-home-affairs-committee/>

## New Publications

**Report on Safe and Legal Routes Illegal Migration Act 2023 (Section 61)**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659ea7b7e8f5ec000d1f8b25/E03048385\\_UK s safe and legal humanitarian routes Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659ea7b7e8f5ec000d1f8b25/E03048385_UK_s_safe_and_legal_humanitarian_routes_Web_Accessible.pdf)

**House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Report: UK-Rwanda treaty: provision of an asylum partnership**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/42852/documents/213003/default/>

**Ukrainian nationals resettled in the UK - student support eligibility criteria date restriction: child rights and wellbeing impact assessment**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/child-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessment-crwia-applying-relevant-date-restriction-student-support-eligibility-criteria-ukrainian-nationals-resettled-uk/>

**Family Migration Rules: Spouse / Partner Migration Rules: An initial findings report examining the mental health impact of the rules on children and families**

<https://www.reunitefamiliesuk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RFUK-Year-1-Initial-Findings-Mental-Health-Impact-of-the-Spouse-Migration-Rules-FINAL-and-Implemental-Report.pdf>

**Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

## News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

**Rishi Sunak denies doubting Rwanda plan when chancellor**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67905741>

**Tory group of MPs aim to force changes to Rwanda Bill**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67930783>

**Tory MPs pile further pressure on Rishi Sunak over Rwanda bill**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67944687>

**Suella Braverman threatens to help destroy Rwanda plan unless Sunak changes bill**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-rishi-sunak-rwanda-parliament-b2477683.html>

**UK government admits Rwanda has 'issues with its human rights record'**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/11/uk-government-admits-rwanda-human-rights-record-issues-asylum-rishi-sunak>

**Rwanda bill: Home Office admits country has human rights 'issues'**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-bill-human-rights-tory-migration-plan-flights-delay-c9wc36gqx>

**Sunak's Rwanda treaty 'unlikely to satisfy supreme court', say legal experts**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/13/rishi-sunak-rwanda-treaty-unlikely-to-satisfy-supreme-court-say-legal-experts>

**European judges could delay Rwanda flights until after election, Sunak warned**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/01/11/judges-could-delay-rwanda-flights-after-election-sunak/>

**What happens now to Rishi Sunak's Rwanda plan?**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/politics-explained/rishi-sunak-rwanda-bill-tory-mps-b2476564.html>

**Thousands of illegal migrants earmarked for Rwanda flights have gone awol**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/13/illegal-migrants-earmarked-rwanda-flights-awol-home-office/>

## News: Channel Migrants

**First migrants crossing the English Channel in 2024 arrive in Dover**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/dover-english-channel-home-office-stephen-kinnock-prime-minister-b2478063.html>

**Four migrants die trying to cross English Channel in boat- reports**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67973718>

**Four people die on migrant boat crossing from France in freezing cold**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/migrant-deaths-small-boats-france-b2478345.html>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Cut immigration levels, say voters in nine out of 10 constituencies**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/01/13/cut-immigration-levels-voters-nine-of-10-constituencies/>

**'Chaos, dysfunction and woke initiatives': Inside the Home Office struggle to curb migration**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/01/13/home-office-chaos-dysfunction-wokey-border-control/>

**Yet another asylum farce: Migrant camp condemned by home secretary moves 'torture victims' into hotels**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wethersfield-base-asylum-seekers-patel-migrants-b2474927.html>

**Far-right activists pose as officials to harass asylum hotels**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-activists-pose-as-official-to-harass-asylum-hotels-scf3nfbth>

**Bibby Stockholm: Others may harm themselves, says dead man's roommate**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67927647>

**Why Home Office visa plans will be 'nail in the coffin' for UK hospitality**

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/jan/11/why-home-office-visa-plans-nail-in-coffin-uk-hospitality>

**Help 'end decade of torment and tragedy' for refugee**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/article/help-end-decade-of-torment-and-tragedy-for-refugee>

**'I had to prove to UK I was gay. But in Cameroon I could be killed'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-had-to-prove-to-uk-i-was-gay-but-in-cameroon-i-could-be-killed-sgllvqpfv>

TOP

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Debate

**Proposed British Jewish History Month**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-11/debates/E6CBFF81-3081-4AEB-B4CD-BB69EDBD0E03/ProposedBritishJewishHistoryMonth>

### News

**Commons backs British Jewish History Month proposal**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/british-house-of-commons-jewish-commons-mps-b2477211.html>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [8184]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether her Department issues guidance to healthcare professionals on having conversations with Black and Asian parents on potential medical risks to them and their baby.



**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** Improving personalised maternity care is a key element of NHS England's Three Year Delivery Plan for Maternity and Neonatal Services, which commits to ensuring that all women have a Personalised Care and Support Plan in place and make informed decisions about their care through fully understanding the risks, benefits and consequences of the choices they have. The Three Year Delivery Plan also aims to improve equity for mothers and babies, and outlines the responsibility of Integrated Care Boards to publish and lead implementation of their Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) Equity and Equality Action Plans. LMNSs have published their plans to tackle disparities in outcomes and experiences of maternity care at a local level, which NHS England supported with £6.8 million investment and national guidance. Trusts are responsible for providing services that meet the needs of their local population, paying particular attention to health inequalities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8184>

*The Delivery Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/B1915-three-year-delivery-plan-for-maternity-and-neonatal-services-march-2023.pdf>

### **Apprentices: Ethnic Groups**

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op)** [7469] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many BAME apprenticeship starts there were between (a) 2015 and (b) 2020.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** The number of apprenticeship starts from the 2014/15 academic year onwards by learners declaring themselves from ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) are available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7469>

### **Children in Care: Ethnic Groups**

**Janet Daby (Labour)** [7405] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make it her policy to develop a black foster care network to improve the experiences of Black children in care.

**Reply from David Johnston:** The government would like to see people from all backgrounds feel able to come forward to foster, whatever their ethnicity, sexuality, gender or relationship status. Children should be cared for in a way that recognises and respects their identity. Carers should be given the training and support they need to meet the child's needs.

The department will engage with foster carer representative bodies to see how the department can further support black foster carers, including considering developing a black foster care network.

The department is investing over £36 million this parliament to deliver a fostering recruitment and retention programme, so that foster care is available for more children who need it. This will boost approvals of foster carers, as well as taking steps to retain the foster carers we have. Greater financial support for foster carers will help improve the experiences of all children in care. For the second year running, the department is uplifting the national minimum allowance (NMA) above the rate of inflation. For 2024/2025, the NMA will increase by 6.88%. This is on top of a 12.43% NMA increase in 2023/24.

In addition, the department estimates that changes to tax and benefit allowances will give the average foster carer an additional £450 per year, as well as simplifying the process for self-assessment returns for most foster carers.

The department will also build on its investment since 2014 of over £8 million to help embed the Mockingbird programme, which is an innovative model of peer support

for foster parents and the children in their care where children benefit from an extended family environment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7405>

## New Publication

### **Double Trouble: The Ethnicity Gender Pay Gap**

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=db2a690e-c6b2-4c9d-b9ea-39e36cdc7e70>

## News

### **Double Trouble: The Ethnicity Gender Pay Gap**

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/double-trouble-the-ethnicity-gender-pay-gap>

### **Women of Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage earn ‘almost third less than white British men’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/08/women-of-bangladeshi-and-pakistani-heritage-earn-almost-third-less-than-white-british-men>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Paul O’Kane (Labour) [S6M-11789] Holocaust Memorial Day 2024** – That the Parliament recognises Holocaust Memorial Day 2024; remembers the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others killed under the Nazi’s persecution of other minority groups; reflects on the millions of people who have been murdered in more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; recognises that Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp; acknowledges that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is developed annually by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust; reflects on this year’s theme, Fragility of Freedom; understands that, in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered and that, despite this, in every genocide, there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others’ freedom or to stand up to the regime; congratulates the efforts of the Holocaust Memorial Day activity organisers around Scotland who bring people together to learn lessons from history, and understands the importance of challenging all forms of prejudice to ensure that lessons of such events are fully learnt.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-11789>

### UK Parliament Debate

#### **Antisemitic Offences**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-09/debates/66C0DDE8-B3FD-43F9-AB0F-D841263150F4/AntisemiticOffences>

### Hate Crime: Sikhs

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [7449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help provide reassurances to Sikhs on their (a) safety and (b) security in the context of recent steps taken by the Indian Government.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Hatred towards Sikhs is completely abhorrent and has no place in our society. No one should ever be a victim of hatred because of their race or religion and the Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat it.

More broadly, we continue to look at tackling all forms of religious hatred. The department is currently seeking the views and perspectives of domestic and international experts in this field to explore how religious hatred is experienced by British communities today. This work will include anti-Sikh hatred.

In 2023/24, the Home Office is providing up to £50.9 million to protect faith communities. This includes £18 million through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, £29.4 million through the new Protective Security for Mosques scheme and a scheme for Muslim faith schools, and £3.5 million for the places of worship of other (non-Muslim and non-Jewish) faiths.

The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding (PoW) Scheme provides physical protective security measures, such as CCTV, intruder alarms and secure perimeter fencing to places of worship and associated faith community centres of all other (non-Muslim and non-Jewish) faiths that are particularly vulnerable to religiously or racially motivated hate crime in England and Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7449>

*Information about the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-ramps-up-security-measures-to-protect-jewish-communities>

*Information about the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme, scheme for Muslim faith schools, and Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

### Legal Profession: Racial Discrimination

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [8426] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the report by the University of Manchester entitled Racial Bias and the Bench, published in November 2022, whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the implications for its policies of the findings on the adequacy of the level of take-up of race training by legal professionals; and if he will take steps with the (a) Lady Chief Justice and (b) Chief Coroner to increase the take-up of this training.

**Reply from Mike Freer:** Everyone has a right to be confident in the justice system, regardless of their background. In 2023, the government published an update to the Inclusive Britain Strategy – our ambitious response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities Report – which included the important work we are doing to improve diversity in the judiciary and magistracy.

To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lady Chief Justice, the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively, exercised through the Judicial College.

The legal profession in England and Wales is independent of Government. Legal

professional training and statutory responsibility for encouraging a diverse legal profession sits with the approved regulators, overseen by the oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-08/8426>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=64125>

*The update to the Inclusive Britain Strategy, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

### **Care Leavers: Racial Discrimination**

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [7750] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of Barnardo's report entitled Double discrimination: Black care-experienced young adults navigating the criminal justice system, published on 21 September 2023.

**Reply from David Johnston:** The department recognises that children in care are more likely than their peers in the general population to have contact with the criminal justice system. That is why, in 2018, the department published a joint national protocol with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>

The department is also taking action on the risk factors that can lead to criminal behaviour, including through our work to improve school attendance.

Through the care leaver Ministerial Board, the department is working closely with MoJ to improve support and outcomes of care-experienced people in the criminal justice system.

MoJ is currently updating its strategy for care-experienced people, to ensure that their time in the criminal justice system is used to support them to lead crime-free lives. The strategy will include a focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience and will link to wider departmental efforts to address racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. MoJ is aiming to publish this strategy in 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/7750>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Double%20Discrimination%20-%20Black%20care-experienced%20young%20adults%20navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system%20report.pdf>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Children in Care: Ethnic Groups**

**Janet Daby (Labour)** [7406] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to work with local authorities to reduce rates of criminalisation of black children in the care system.

**Ian Byrne (Labour)** [7442] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has made an assessment of the potential implications for her policies of the report by Barnardo's entitled Double discrimination: Black care-experienced young adults navigating the criminal justice system, published in September 2023.

**Reply from David Johnston:** The department recognises that children in care are more likely than their peers in the general population to have contact with the criminal justice system. In 2018, the department published a joint national protocol

with the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>

Since the publication of the protocol, the proportion of children in care aged 10 to 17 who are charged with an offence or receive a caution has reduced from 3% in 2019 to 2% in 2023. The latest data for the year ending in March 2023 also shows that 3% of care leavers age 19 to 21 were in custody. This figure has remained the same for the last 5 years.

The department is also taking action on risk factors that can lead to criminal behaviour, including through its work to improve school attendance.

Through the care leaver Ministerial Board, the department is working closely with MoJ to improve the support for and outcomes of care-experienced people in the criminal justice system.

MoJ is currently updating its strategy for people with care experience in the criminal justice system, to ensure that their time in the criminal justice system is used to support them to lead crime-free lives. The strategy will include a focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience and will link to wider departmental efforts to address racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. The MoJ are aiming to publish this strategy in 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7406>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-18/7442>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Double%20Discrimination%20-%20Black%20care-experienced%20young%20adults%20navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system%20report.pdf>

### **Children in Care: Ethnic Groups**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [8189] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of Barnardo's report entitled Double discrimination: Black care-experienced young adults navigating the criminal justice system, published on 21 September 2023.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** We are grateful for the work Barnardo's have done to highlight the challenges faced by young black care-experienced people in our criminal justice system, and look forward to working with Barnardo's further to ensure we are tackling these issues.

Across the criminal justice system, we are taking forward an extensive programme of work to tackle unexplained disparities where they are identified. The Inclusive Britain strategy is central to the development of this work and contains some of our flagship efforts.

We are also updating our strategy for people with care experience in the criminal justice system, to ensure we are using care-experienced people's time in the criminal justice system to support them to lead crime-free lives. This will include a focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience in the criminal justice system.

We are aiming to publish this strategy later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8189>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Double%20Discrimination%20-%20Black%20care-experienced%20young%20adults%20navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system%20report.pdf>



## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Children in Care: Racial Discrimination

**Baroness Scott of Needham Market (Liberal Democrat) [HL1118]** To ask His Majesty's Government what is their response to the Barnardo's report Double Discrimination, which looks at the differential outcomes Black children face both in and leaving care.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The department recognises that children in care are more likely than their peers in the general population to have contact with the criminal justice system. The department has a joint national protocol with the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers and is taking action on risk factors that can lead to criminal behaviour, including through its work to improve school attendance. Through the care leaver Ministerial Board, the department is working closely with the MoJ to improve support and outcomes of care-experienced people in the criminal justice system.

MoJ is currently updating its strategy for people with care experience in the criminal justice system, to ensure that their time in the criminal justice system is used to support them to lead crime-free lives. The strategy will include a focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience and will link to wider departmental efforts to address racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. MoJ are aiming to publish this strategy in 2024.

The department will continue to work urgently across government and with local authorities to ensure that all vulnerable children, no matter their age, race, ethnicity, or circumstances, are kept safe and receive the support they need. The department will engage with foster carer representative bodies to see how it can further support black foster carers, including considering developing a Black Foster Care Network whilst 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' sets out the department's plans to reform the children's social care system, including improving the education, employment, and training outcomes of children in care and care leavers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-12-12/hl1118>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Double%20Discrimination%20-%20Black%20care-experienced%20young%20adults%20navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system%20report.pdf>

*Stable Homes, Built on Love, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650966a322a783001343e844/Children\\_s\\_Social\\_Care\\_Stable\\_Homes\\_Built\\_on\\_Love\\_consultation\\_response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650966a322a783001343e844/Children_s_Social_Care_Stable_Homes_Built_on_Love_consultation_response.pdf)

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Bob Blackman (Conservative) [269] Holocaust Memorial Day** – That this House notes that on 27 January 2024 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day on the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; further notes that the UK will come together to remember the 6 million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered and the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution; pays tribute to the Holocaust survivors, including many who share their testimony day in, day out, to ensure the horrors of the past are never forgotten; thanks the Holocaust Educational Trust for its work to educate every person from every background in the UK about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance; pays tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising the national Holocaust Memorial Day event; and urges all Right hon. and hon. Members to observe this day and to pledge to speak out against antisemitism,

which in recent months has risen exponentially and which needs to be tackled head on.  
<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61753>

## News

**Racism affected how we were treated over Horizon, says Post Office victims**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67929650>

**Street preacher wins police payout after 'hate speech' arrest**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/street-preacher-wins-police-payout-after-hate-speech-arrest-ccf9szd8r>

**Christopher Kapessa: Drowned boy's family 'racially abused'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-67911288>

**Colin Graves sorry for Yorkshire racism but Azeem Rafiq wants 'more than words'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/colin-graves-yorkshire-graves-azeem-rafiq-house-of-commons-b2477108.html>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Ending conversion practices**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/ending-conversion-practices-1/>

TOP

## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

### Cost of Living Crisis

**Stuart McMillan (SNP)** [S6O-02954] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to address the cost of living crisis.

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville):** Despite the difficult financial settlement from the United Kingdom Government, this Government is doing everything that it can, with the powers available to it, to support people and communities through the cost of living crisis.

We are investing a record-high £6.3 billion in social security benefits and payments. That is £1.1 billion more than the level of funding that is forecast to be received from the UK Government through the social security block grant adjustments, helping low-income families and disabled people with their living costs.

**Stuart McMillan:** Earlier this week, I visited Advice Direct Scotland, which is funded by the Scottish Government. According to its stats, more people from my constituency than from any other constituency in the country have contacted it for energy advice. I believe that its outreach work across the country, including in my constituency, has led to some of the increase. It will also be attending a session at 7 1/2 John Wood Street in Port Glasgow tomorrow.

Does the cabinet secretary agree that it is vital that people reach out for support when they need it? Does she also agree that, in energy-rich but fuel-poor Scotland, we see yet another damning indictment of Scotland's place in the union?

**Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville:** I agree with Stuart McMillan's assessment. It is deeply concerning that we see so many people still in poverty. That is why the First Minister made an announcement about the fuel insecurity fund very early on when he came into post. He recognised its importance within the limited powers that we have to try and tackle poverty. The vast majority of those powers lie with Westminster, which has walked away from supporting people with the cost of living, particularly those who are living in fuel poverty.

We will do everything that we can, which includes funding Advice Direct Scotland and others who provide such valuable advice to people at times of crisis.

**Paul O'Kane (Labour):** One thing that will not help with the cost of living crisis is slashing the affordable housing supply budget by more than a quarter in real terms in the coming year. Anti-poverty charities such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have used words such as "disappointing", "brutal" and "baffling" to describe the decision. Surely access to affordable housing is the bedrock of dealing with cost of living pressures. When will the Government recognise that there is a housing emergency on its watch and take action—including by reviewing its budget decisions, which are exacerbating the cost of living crisis?

**Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville:** I would be more than happy to meet the member to discuss the matter—as would the Minister for Housing, I am sure—so that he can tell us in detail how we are supposed to deal with a 10 per cent cut to the Scottish Government's capital budget while still increasing budgets, as he has demanded. Paul O'Kane is of course absolutely within his rights to come to the chamber and ask for more money. If he wants to get into a genuine discussion about how to help with housing and homelessness, my door is open—and the Minister for Housing's door is open—so we can discuss where the money would come from, and get past the headlines and into the details.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15637&i=133437#ScotParlOR>

## News

### Number of UK households failing to pay energy bills jumps by 39%

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-households-fail-to-pay-energy-bills-b2477045html>

### Cost-of-living crisis may not yet be over, warns Tesco boss

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/01/11/tesco-upgrades-profit-outlook-after-record-christmas/>

TOP

## Other News

### Overseas Voting

There are changes to voting for British and eligible Irish citizens living overseas from 16 January 2024. These include:

- People living overseas can now register to vote in the UK no matter how long ago they left or were last registered to vote in the UK.
- Overseas declarations are now valid for three years, lasting until 1 November in the third year after it takes effect (for example, if your declaration takes effect on 1 March 2024, it will expire on 1 November 2026).
- People living overseas can now register online (not available in Northern Ireland).

For information see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/resources/democratic-engagement-resources/overseas-voting-resources-friends-and-family>

and

[https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Overseas%20Voting%20Changes%20-%20FAQ%20-%20Overseas%20Voters\\_0.docx](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Overseas%20Voting%20Changes%20-%20FAQ%20-%20Overseas%20Voters_0.docx)

### Charity Governance Awards 2024

<https://www.charitygovernanceawards.co.uk/>

TOP

## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

#### Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

#### Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

### UK Parliament

#### Asylum Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3530>

## **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3627>

## **The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

## **Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3618/stages>

## **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3649>

## **\*\* Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3540>

Amendment papers

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda\\_rm\\_cwh\\_0110.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda_rm_cwh_0110.pdf)

and

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda\\_rm\\_cwh\\_0115.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0038/amend/rwanda_rm_cwh_0115.pdf)

Policy Statement

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659fdf68e8f5ec000d1f8bba/Safety\\_of\\_Rwanda\\_Asylum\\_and\\_Immigration\\_Bill\\_-\\_Policy\\_Statement-main.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659fdf68e8f5ec000d1f8bba/Safety_of_Rwanda_Asylum_and_Immigration_Bill_-_Policy_Statement-main.pdf)

Supporting Evidence

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-of-rwanda-asylum-and-immigration-bill-supporting-evidence>

Migration and Economic Development Partnership Monitoring Committee Proposal

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a005e23308d2000d1f8e7a/Monitoring\\_Committee\\_Enhanced\\_Monitoring\\_Plan.docx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a005e23308d2000d1f8e7a/Monitoring_Committee_Enhanced_Monitoring_Plan.docx)

Migration and Economic Development Partnership Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a00602e96df50014f844e7/Monitoring\\_Committee\\_Terms\\_of\\_Reference.docx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a00602e96df50014f844e7/Monitoring_Committee_Terms_of_Reference.docx)

Factsheet

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659fc750e8f5ec000f1f8b94/Safety\\_of\\_Rwanda\\_Bill\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_11\\_Jan\\_2023\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/659fc750e8f5ec000f1f8b94/Safety_of_Rwanda_Bill_Fact_Sheet_11_Jan_2023_FINAL.pdf)

House of Commons Library Briefing: Legal Commentary

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9931/CBP-9931.pdf>

## **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3660>

## **\*\* Scottish Law Officers (Devolution) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3665>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/744C82F0-559A-4EA1-B66D-DCCCFA65DDF6/ScottishLawOfficers\(Devolution\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/744C82F0-559A-4EA1-B66D-DCCCFA65DDF6/ScottishLawOfficers(Devolution))

## **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>



## Workforce Information (Ethnicity) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3522>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**Democracy Matters** (closing date 28 February 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/>

**Your Police 2023-2024** (closing date 31 March 2023)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

\*\* **Ending conversion practices in Scotland** (closing date 2 April 2024)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-conversion-practices-scotland-scottish-government-consultation/>

**ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund 2023/24**

*Closing date: 26 January 2024*

Scottish Government funding of up to £300 (possibility of higher funding to assist with accessibility) to support organisations and groups to host conversations and gather the views of people across Scotland on how we can create a system of inclusive local democracy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4ds8r9h2>

**Alwaleed Community Grant Scheme**

*Closing date: 11 March 2024*

Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World funding of up to £5,000 for projects which engage with the following themes: Interfaith and intra-faith relations, Islam and the environment, Education and skills development, and Digital Islam. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4atszf5m>

**Cost-of-Living Support Scotland**

*Application deadline not stated*

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways

to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

TOP

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Edinburgh Reads multi-access audiobook for Holocaust Memorial Day**

22-31 January 2024 (online for all Edinburgh Libraries membership card holders)

Edinburgh Libraries will have an "Edinburgh Reads" unlimited access audiobook, "Night", by Elie Wiesel, available on their Libby platform ([www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libby](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libby)) to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/mttw68md>

### **Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre School's Holocaust Memorial Day Event 2024**

23 January 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–1.30)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre event for secondary school pupils, providing an opportunity to hear people whose parents were survivors of the Holocaust, and who made a life in Scotland. For information see <https://sjhc.org.uk/news/hmd2024/>

### **Book Discussion for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024**

23 January 2024 (online, 7.00–9.00)

Aberdeen Interfaith Association book discussion to mark Holocaust Memorial Day – "Jane Haining, A life of love and courage" by Mary Miller. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/adt2t95j>

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 UK Ceremony Curated Moments**

27 January 2024 (online, 7.30)

UK National commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day. To register see <https://tinyurl.com/2yu8wmjx>

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to find out about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves for an economy in recession and cost of living spiralling. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

15 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course also explores the journeys and barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers reaching and building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **No Recourse To Public Funds**

21 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this

means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

TOP

## Useful Links

**Scottish Parliament** <http://www.parliament.scot/>

**Scottish Government** <https://www.gov.scot/>

**UK Parliament** <http://www.parliament.uk/>

**GovUK (links to UK Government Departments)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

**One Scotland** <http://onescotland.org/>

**Scottish Refugee Council** <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

**New Scots** <https://newscots.scot/>

**Refugee Survival Trust** <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

**Freedom from Torture** <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

**Interfaith Scotland** <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission** <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

**Equality Advisory Support Service** <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission** <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

**ACAS** <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

**SCVO** <https://scvo.org.uk/>

**Volunteer Scotland** <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)** <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

**Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel** <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

**Disclosure Scotland** <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**  
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.com/news>

TOP

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.